

In re Patent Application of:
PERMAR, JOHN
Serial No. **10/764,350**
Filed: **JANUARY 23, 2004**

In the Specification:

Please amend paragraph **[0028]**, as follows:

Referring initially to FIGS. 1-3, a first embodiment of a folding knife **20** according to the present invention is now described. In FIGS. ~~1-2~~ 1 and 2, the folding knife **20** is illustrated in an opened position. In FIG. 3, the folding knife **20** is illustrated as being moved between ~~the~~ an opened position and a closed position. More specifically, the folding knife **20** includes a front cover and a rear cover, but is illustrated in FIGS. 1-3 without the front cover for clarity.

Please amend paragraph **[0032]**, as follows:

The folding knife **20** also includes a lock bar **30** pivotally connected to the handle **24**. More specifically, the lock bar **30** is ~~moveable~~ moveable between an engaged position and a disengaged position. The folding knife **20** includes a lock bar connecting member **22** connected to the handle **24**. Further, the lock bar ~~20~~ 30 has a lock bar connecting member passageway formed therein. The lock bar connecting member passageway receives the lock bar connecting member **22** to pivotally connect the lock bar **30** to the handle **24**. The lock bar connecting member **22** may be provided by a lock bar connecting pin, for example, or another type of connecting member suitable for pivotally connecting the lock bar **30** to the handle **24**.

Please amend paragraph **[0034]**, as follows:

The lock member **25** also includes a second lock member **46** adjacent the first lock member **40**. The second lock member ~~40~~ 46 is defined by a bottom wall **47** and a sidewall **48** extending upwardly therefrom. The bottom wall **47** of the second lock

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member **46** illustratively contacts the second sidewall **42** of the first lock member **40** to form an L-shape.

Please amend paragraph **[0035]**, as follows:

As illustrated in FIGS. ~~1-2~~ 1 and 2, the lock bar **30** is preferably in an engaged position when the blade **26** is in the opened position. As illustrated in FIG. 3, the lock bar **30** is moved from the engaged position to the disengaged position to move the blade **26** from the opened position to the closed position. When the blade **26** is in the opened position, a portion of the first sidewall **43** of the first lock member **40** contacts a portion of the first sidewall **56** of the first lock member recess **53** to define a contact point **88** between the lock bar **30** and the blade **26**.

Please amend paragraph **[0037]**, as follows:

As perhaps best illustrated in FIGS. ~~1-2~~ 1 and 2, the bottom wall **47** and sidewall **48** of the second lock member **46** are spaced apart from the bottom wall **58** and sidewall **59** of the second lock member receiving recess **57** when the lock bar **30** is in the engaged position. The sidewall **59** of the second lock member receiving recess **57** is also spaced apart from the lock pin **70** when the blade **26** is in the opened position.

Please amend paragraph **[0038]**, as follows:

As further illustrated in FIGS. ~~1-2~~ 1 and 2, when the blade **26** is in the opened position, the lock pin **70** illustratively contacts the bottom wall **58** of the second lock member receiving recess **57**, and also contacts the second sidewall **42** of the first lock member **40**. Further, the sidewall **59** of the second lock member receiving recess **57** is spaced apart

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from the sidewall **48** of the second lock member **46** when the blade **26** is in the opened position. Accordingly, when the blade **26** is in the opened position, and the lock bar **30** is in the engaged position, the lock pin **70** contacts portions of the blade and portions of the lock bar **30** to advantageously provide additional lock stability to the blade.

Please amend paragraph **[0041]**, as follows:

The blade **26** illustratively comprises an upper edge **62**, and a lower edge **60**. The lower edge **60** may be a sharpened lower edge. The upper edge **62** and the lower edge **60** of the blade **26** extend from the proximal end portion **50** of the blade initially spaced from one another, to the distal end portion **51** of the blade, where the upper edge **62** and the lower edge **60** of the blade meet to form a tip **64**. The upper edge **62** of the blade **26** may include portions that are sharpened.

Please amend paragraph **[0043]**, as follows:

A recess **36** may be formed in a proximal end portion **32** of the handle **24**. The recess **36** allows a user to access the proximal end **32** of the lock bar **30** to move the lock bar between the engaged and the disengaged positions.

Please amend paragraph **[0044]**, as follows:

The folding knife **26** **20** may also comprise a lock bar spring member **80** connected to the handle **24** to engage a portion of the lock bar **30**. When a user depresses the lock bar **30** along the recess **36** in the handle **24**, the spring member **80** provides a predetermined amount of resistance. Further, upon releasing the lock bar **30** adjacent the recess **36** in the handle **24**, the resistance provided by the spring member **36** **80** returns the lock

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bar to the engaged position. It should be noted that the lock bar **30** is generally in the engaged position, and is moved to the disengaged position when moving the blade **26** between the opened and closed positions.

Please amend paragraph **[0048]**, as follows:

The tapered and threaded lock pin **70'** advantageously allows a user to adjust the tension of the lock strength to be compensated for wear, when needed. Further, the tapered and threaded lock pin **70'** advantageously allows a user to adjust positioning within the lock pin receiving recess **74'**. The other elements of the second embodiment of the folding knife **20'** are similar to those of the first embodiment, are ~~labeled~~ labelled with prime notation, and require no further discussion herein.

Please amend paragraph **[0049]**, as follows:

Referring now additionally to FIGS. ~~8-9~~ 8 and 9, a third embodiment of the folding knife **20"** is now described in greater detail. The third embodiment of the folding knife **20"** illustratively includes a lock bridge **90"**. The blade **26"** of the third embodiment of the folding knife **20"** has a first lock member receiving recess **53"** and a second lock member receiving recess **57"** formed therein.

Please amend paragraph **[0050]**, as follows:

The lock bar **30"** of the second embodiment of the folding knife **20"** includes a lock member **40"**. The lock bridge **90"** may have an H-shape so that a medial portion of a first side ~~93"~~ 92" of the lock bridge ~~90"~~ may contact the sidewall **42"** of the lock member **40"**, and so that a medial portion of the second side ~~92"~~ 93" of the lock bridge is adjacent to the sidewall **59"**

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of the second lock member receiving recess **57"** when the blade **26"** is in the opened position. More specifically, the medial portion of the second side **92"** **93"** of the lock bridge **90"** is spaced apart from the sidewall **59"** of the second lock member receiving recess **57"**.

Please amend paragraph **[0051]**, as follows:

The lock bridge **90"** may have a trapezoidal shape, but may also have another shape suitable for contacting portions of the lock bar **30"** when the lock bar is in the engaged position, as understood by those skilled in the art. The lock bridge **90"** further illustratively includes a set screw **91"** and a set screw receiving passageway formed therein. Both the set screw **91"** and the set screw receiving passageway are preferably threaded to thereby engage one another when turning the set screw to position the blade **26"** to a desired height.

Please amend paragraph **[0053]**, as follows:

The lock bridge **90"** advantageously enhances the lock strength of the folding knife **20"** associated with contact between the lock bar **30"**, the set screw **91"**, and the blade **26"** when the blade is in the opened position and the lock bar is in the engaged position. The other elements of the third embodiment of the folding knife **20"** are similar to those of the first embodiment, are ~~labeled~~ labelled with double prime notation, and require no further discussion herein.

Please amend paragraph **[0054]**, as follows:

Turning now additionally to FIG. 10, a fourth embodiment of the folding knife **20'''** is now described. The fourth embodiment of the folding knife **20'''** illustratively

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includes a lock pin **70'''**, and a lock bar **30'''** including a first lock member **40'''** and a second lock member **46'''**. The blade **26'''** illustratively includes a first lock member receiving recess **53'''** defined by a bottom wall **54'''**, and first and second opposing sidewalls **55'''**, **56'''**, ~~**57'''**~~ extending upwardly therefrom.

Please amend paragraph **[0055]**, as follows:

The fourth embodiment of the folding knife **20'''** further illustratively includes a blade set screw **100'''** for setting a desired height of the blade **26'''**. The blade **26'''** further has a blade set screw passageway formed in the bottom wall **54'''** of the first lock member receiving recess **53'''** for receiving the blade set screw **100'''**. The blade set screw **100'''** and the blade set screw receiving recess may be threaded so that the height of the blade set screw may be adjusted by a user, thereby adjusting the height of the blade **26'''**. The other aspects of the fourth embodiment of the folding knife **20'''** are similar to those of the first embodiment of the folding knife **20**, are ~~labeled~~ labelled with triple prime notation, and require no further discussion herein.

Please amend paragraph **[0056]**, as follows:

A method aspect of the present invention is for locking a folding knife **20** in an opened position. The method may comprise moving the blade **26** to the opened position, and moving the lock bar **30** to the engaged position so that a portion of the lock member **25** contacts a respective portion of the blade **26** adjacent ~~at~~ the lock member recess **53** to thereby define a contact point **88** between the lock member and the blade when the blade is in the opened position.